

# Regular Board of Works Meeting In Person and Hybrid/Zoom on February 16, 2026

The Board of Public Works and Safety met in regular session on Monday, February 16, 2026 at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall, City of Michigan City, on Hybrid/Zoom and streamed live on the "Access LaPorte County" Facebook page.

The meeting was called to order by Board President Candice Antisdell.

On the call of roll, the following Board Members were found to be present or absent.

**Noted present in person:** Candice Antisdell, Gene Simmons, Tamiko Smith, Peggy Moore and Patrick Voltz (5)

**Absent:** None (0)

### **Also noted in attendance:**

Corporate Counsel Amber Lapaich; Gianna Galante, BOW Clerk; Ryan Beall, Deputy City Attorney; Eric Williams, Assistant Director for Special Events; Chris Yagelski; Sanitary District Business Manager; Assistant Chief Shiparski, Michigan City Police Department; D'Marcus Briscoe, Code Enforcement Manager; Chief Barrett Taylor, Michigan City Fire Department; Tim Werner, City Engineer; Darrel Garbacik, Central Maintenance Superintendent; Terry Greetham, Special Events Director; Drew White, ALCO.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Ms. Moore made a motion to approve the February 2, 2026 minutes as presented; seconded by Ms. Smith and was approved with the following vote:

**AYES: (5) Antisdell, Moore, Simmons, Smith, Voltz**

**NAYS: (0) None**

### **Fire Merit Nominations**

Ms. Galante stated that the two final nominees for the Fire Merit Commission are Mr. Larry Butcher and Mr. Paul Przybylinski.

Corporate Counsel Amber Lapaich clarified that the Mayor's Office will conduct the election by secret ballot box, and a notice will be posted in the various fire stations.

Mr. Kulavick made a comment.

### **Approval of Emergency Fees**

Request for approval of emergency fees incurred under the Unsafe Building Act for the following addresses:

- 820 Buffalo St.
- 1914 Greenwood Ave.
- 1202 Tennessee St.
- 1504 E. Barker Ave.

Ryan Beall, Deputy City Attorney requested that this item be tabled to the next meeting on March 2, 2026, as the certified mailings have not come back yet showing that the service has been made on the property owners.

Ms. Moore asked if this included all of the properties. Attorney Beall responded with yes.

Ms. Antisdell requested that new notices go out to let the owners know. Attorney Beall agreed to send the notices out.

Ms. Smith made a motion to table this to the March 2, 2026 Board of Works meeting; seconded by Mr. Voltz, and was approved with the following vote:

**AYES: (5) Antisdell, Moore, Simmons, Smith, Voltz**

**NAYS: (0) None**

### **Contract**

Contract between the City of Michigan City and Indiana Landmarks for services of a qualified preservation professional to assist the Historic Preservation Commission and Local Public Agency staff for one (1) year for a total amount not to exceed \$7,000.00 plus a \$35.00 membership fee for each Commission member and one (1) designated staff person.

Corporate Counsel Amber Lapaich stated that the City of Michigan City has been using Indiana Landmarks for their Historic Preservation Commission for years and has renewed this contract with them annually for their services in providing assistance with their professional advice and review of the certificate of appropriateness.

Ms. Moore made a motion to approve the contract; seconded by Mr. Simmons, and was approved with the following vote:

**AYES: (5) Antisdell, Moore, Simmons, Smith, Voltz**

**NAYS: (0) None**

### **Contract**

The Michigan City Special Events Department is requesting the following sponsorship contracts for the 2026 event season:

- Silver sponsorship from Horizon Bank in the amount of \$5,000.00.

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- Gold sponsorship from Comcast – Greater Chicago Region in the amount of 10,000.00.

Terry Greetham, Special Events Director stated that these are both returning partners and Comcast has changed from a silver sponsor to a gold sponsor; advising with approval of these two partnerships will put the City of Michigan City at \$79,000 towards their \$100,000 goal. Mr. Greetham stated that they currently have six contracts out for potential partners, and once those are signed, it will total another \$28,000, allowing the City to meet its mark for this year.

Mr. Simmons made a motion to approve the special events sponsorship contracts; seconded by Ms. Smith, and was approved with the following vote:

**AYES: (5) Antisdell, Moore, Simmons, Smith, Voltz**

**NAYS: (0) None**

### **Contract**

Contract between the City of Michigan City and Lakeshore Landscaping, LLC for landscaping services for Franklin Square, South Franklin, Wabash, Westcott Park, and Michigan Blvd Planters for three (3) years; for a total not to exceed the amount of \$263,462.00 for 2026.

Corporate Counsel Amber Lapaich stated that last year the Board decided to go out for a request for proposals to see what other options were available. Ms. Lapaich clarified that the City does not have to take the lowest, most responsive bidder; however, Lake Shore Landscaping bided low in 2025 and had an impressive quality of service, as stated by some City team members. Ms. Lapaich is recommending that the City renews with Lakeshore Landscaping, LLC for the years 2026, 2027, and 2028; advising although the City would be renewing for three years if approved, the Board can choose to terminate at any time.

Ms. Moore stated that she was thoroughly impressed last year with Lakeshore Landscaping's services.

Ms. Antisdell stated that Lakeshore Landscaping LLC is always very respectful and conscientious of drivers on the road while doing work.

Mr. Simmons made a motion to approve the contract; seconded by Ms. Moore, and was approved with the following vote:

**AYES: (5) Antisdell, Moore, Simmons, Smith, Voltz**

**NAYS: (0) None**

### **Change of Duty Shirts**

The Michigan City Fire department is requesting the following:

- Change of duty shirts for St. Patrick's Day during the month of March.
- To do three (3) to four (4) more fundraising shirts in 2026.

Chief Taylor stated that last year the Fire Department created St. Patrick's Day shirts as a fundraiser to benefit one of its firefighters; advising the department plans to continue this effort by selecting a local firefighter in need as the beneficiary, and if no eligible recipient is identified in a given year, the funds raised will roll over to the following year.

Chief Taylor stated additionally, the department plans to purchase three to four more shirts to be used as temporary duty shirts, along with hats, and these will be worn for the Fourth of July parade, Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October, and Men's Health Awareness initiatives in November.

Ms. Antisdell asked whether the department plans to keep the same shirt style. Chief Taylor responded that they try to reuse the design from the previous year when possible, while maintaining a consistent theme with past shirts.

Ms. Moore asked about the public's response to the shirts. Chief Taylor stated that the patriotic shirts are not intended to bring in money; however, the fundraising shirts typically perform well and receive strong support. Chief Taylor noted that they usually generate between several hundred and up to one thousand dollars.

Ms. Moore made a motion to approve; Mr. Simmons seconded the motion, and was approved with the following vote:

**AYES: (5) Antisdell, Moore, Simmons, Smith, Voltz**

**NAYS: (0) None**

### **Special Purchase Request**

The Michigan City Police Department is requesting the Special Purchase of Motorola public safety radios for MCPD & MCFD on a three (3) year municipal lease-purchase for a total amount not to exceed \$1.05 million for three (3) years.

Assistant Chief Shiparski stated that the radios currently used by the Michigan City Police Department will no longer be serviceable within the next year due to LaPorte County's recent transition to newer radio equipment, stating as a result, the department must upgrade to remain compatible with the countywide system.

Assistant Chief Shiparski explained that Motorola radios are the industry standard and recommended the purchase of 90 police radios and 55 firefighter radios to maintain operations; advising Motorola has offered favorable leasing terms, including a reduced interest rate from 5% to 2.9% over a three-year period. Assistant Chief Shiparski stated additionally, the company has agreed to provide a trade-in subsidy of \$700-\$800 per

existing radio and a \$27,000 technology credit to cover the cost of necessary accessories, such as holsters and chargers.

Mr. Simmons asked where the funding would originate. Corporate Counsel Amber Lapaich stated that the matter will need to go before the City Council for approval; indicating that funding will likely come from the Riverboat Fund, though that is still being finalized.

Ms. Lapaich asked for clarification regarding the trade-in list. Assistant Chief Shiparski confirmed that the department plans to trade in 90 current police radios and 55 firefighter radios.

Ms. Moore asked for clarification on managing the radios internally versus contracting out those services. Assistant Chief Shiparski explained that the new radios include built-in Wi-Fi and LTE capabilities, allowing them to be easily managed by an officer from a department computer; also noting that Long Beach has secured the same radios and that the equipment will be utilized countywide.

Mr. Simmons asked whether spare radios are included in the plan. Assistant Chief Shiparski confirmed that older-generation radios, which remain compatible, will be retained and used as spares until they are no longer functional.

Ms. Moore asked whether the County originally funded the Motorola radios. Assistant Chief Shiparski confirmed that the County provided funding for all agencies approximately ten years ago, and going forward, individual agencies are responsible for funding their own equipment replacements.

Mr. Simmons made a motion to approve the special purchase request contingent upon Council approval and the trade ins; seconded by Mr. Voltz, and was approved with the following vote:

**AYES: (5) Antisdell, Moore, Simmons, Smith, Voltz**

**NAYS: (0) None**

**Claims Docket:**

**February 16, 2026**

<b>Municipal</b>	<b>\$2,137,477.72</b>
<b>CDBG</b>	<b>\$260.69</b>
<b>Health &amp; Life</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Special Events</b>	<b>\$1,000.00</b>
<b>Zoo Casino Agreement</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Workers Comp</b>	<b>\$267,038.85</b>
<b>ARP Local Fiscal Recovery</b>	<b>\$22,498.00</b>
<b>TOTAL CLAIMS:</b>	<b>\$2,428,275.26</b>

Ms. Smith made a motion to approve the claims docket; seconded by Ms. Moore and approved with the following vote

**AYES: (5) Antisdell, Moore, Simmons, Smith, Voltz**

**NAYS: (0) None**

**Payroll Claims Docket**

<b>Payroll Docket</b>	<b>February 6, 2026</b>	<b>\$1,063,530.58</b>
<b>Payroll Pension Docket</b>	<b>January 30, 2026</b>	<b>\$190,674.94</b>

Ms. Smith made a motion to approve the payroll claims docket; seconded by Mr. Voltz and approved with the following vote:

**AYES: (5) Antisdell, Moore, Simmons, Smith, Voltz**

**NAYS: (0) None**

## **Unfinished Business**

### **Request for Railroad Repair**

Councilman Don Przybylinski is requesting an update on the cleanup of CSX railroad ties along Arthur St. and the repairs of the CSX railroad crossing at Buffalo St. which was tabled on November 3, 2025.

Corporate Counsel Amber Lapaich stated she has no updates.

Ms. Antisdell made a motion to table this item until the next meeting; seconded by Mr. Simmons and approved with the following vote:

**AYES: (5) Antisdell, Moore, Simmons, Smith, Voltz**

**NAYS: (0) None**

## **Public Comment**

Mr. Kulavick (1316 Ohio St.) made a comment congratulating Ms. Galante as the new Clerk for the Board of Works and thanking Ms. Galvin Ellis for her time serving on the City's Board of Works. Mr. Kulavick stated that there is a damaged utility pole on highway 12 and Willard Ave, and that he plans to contact Mr. Werner about this issue.

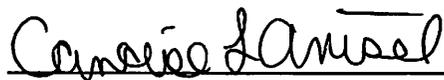
## **Board Comment**

Mr. Simmons made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Ms. Antisdell and approved with the following vote:

**AYES: (5) Antisdell, Moore, Simmons, Smith, Voltz**

**NAYS: (0) None**

## **Meeting adjourned at 4:32 p.m.**



BOW President, Candice Antisdell



BOW Clerk, Gianna Galante

Monday, February 16, 2026